

Resource Enhancement And Protection Conservation Education Program

The Conservation Education Program (CEP) receives \$350,000 of REAP funds annually. This money is awarded to grantees for programs that teach people of all ages about their environment and how to make intelligent, informed decisions about its well-being.

Quick Facts

- \$350,000 is devoted to Conservation Education annually—well more than two times that amount is requested through grant proposals
- On average, REAP CEP provides less than half of the total funding for education projects that are awarded. Often private contributions and expert services make up the difference
- A five-member volunteer board makes grant decisions at public meetings. Grantees attend to provide additional information as needed. At meetings, grantees also learn strategies to improve their projects
- Board members represent a spectrum of those providing conservation education in Iowa: one member each from the state departments of education and natural resources, the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, Iowa Association of Naturalists, and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition



Conservation education is taught in a variety of arenas—including traditional classrooms, camp settings (above), and in farm fields.

- CEP grant deadlines are May 15 and November 1 (see iowadnr.com/reap/cep.html for details)

Understanding how the environment works and keeping it healthy involves skills from biology to math to language arts. At right, young women at a residential home for at-risk youth learn about prairies and prairie seed..



REAP CEP May 2007 Grants

For the May grant round, REAP funds provided about 1/4 of total project costs; grantees secured funds and professional services from other sources valued at \$621,538 to complete these educational projects.

KinderNature Outreach Program--\$5,000

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County--This program will expand on an earlier KinderNature program funded by CEP. It will take the program on the road to 12 preschools and daycare centers.

Extending Environmental Education to the Home Schooled Child--\$5,000

Indian Creek to Ida County—This project is designed to introduce the environmental education curriculum developed by Indian Creek Nature Center to the Ida Grove Home Schooling Group.

Park Packs--\$1,680

Linn County Conservation Board—Linn County Conservation Board will replicate the Park Packs program funded by CEP. The packs will provide families and other groups the opportunity to investigate the wonders of nature.

Rivers to the Sea: Flow of Life--\$25,610

Dubuque County Historical Society—The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will create a conservation curriculum to reach 12,000 students in the first year alone.

Salute to the Songbirds Exhibit--\$53,250

Friends of Hartman Reserve—Hartman Reserve Nature Center will bring the traveling exhibit, *A Salute to Songbirds*, to Iowa from the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Sacramento. The exhibit will educate, motivate, enlighten and inform the public about the plight of migratory songbirds.

Winter Solstice 2008: Plug into Environmental Education--\$15,955.50

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition—The 2008 Winter Solstice's goal is to give educators and natural resource professionals the strategies and resources needed to incorporate environmental issues into their work.

Instilling a Commitment to Iowa's Natural Resources in Young Women--\$20,500

Iowa Department of Natural Resources—Project organizers of Outdoor Journey for Girls will expand the number of camps to include one in eastern Iowa, develop a new camp for women and girls, and expand recruiting efforts.

Community Leaders Enhancing Area Rivers (CLEAR) Mini-Grant Program--\$22,500

Iowa Department of Natural Resources-Watershed Monitoring & Assessment—The CEP grant will fund 18 \$1,000 mini-grants to Iowa communities to help recycle river trash and educate about water quality.

Watchable Wildlife Education Program--\$15,515

Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation & Development—In a 13 county region of Northwest Iowa there are over 480 state, county and city parks and recreational areas. The project's mission is to promote and create environmental education opportunities using these conservation areas, enticing groups to explore Iowa's natural resources.

Anti-Litter/Illegal Dumping Education Pilot Project of Iowa Law Enforcement & Legal Officials--\$17,554

Keep Iowa Beautiful—Keep Iowa Beautiful™ will expand its partnership with law enforcement and legal organizations to educate their members and employees on litter and illegal dumping prevention programs, enforcement regulations and processes.

Pay it Forward: Educating Educators about Waste To Reap Citizenry Skills in Students--\$24,686

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education—A two-year interdisciplinary initiative will reach an estimated 13,000 students. The project staff will introduce conservation education lesson plans to 600-700 K-12 educators through conferences and meetings. Staff will also offer two graduate courses for 60-70 teachers.

Prairies in Progress--\$26,117

UNI CEEE—Environmental Issues Instruction (eii) program teacher-participants requested a workshop to to enhance and expand their knowledge and appreciation of prairie development, maintenance and management.

Service-Learning: Moving Environmental Issues Beyond the Classroom--\$10,695

UNI CEEE--UNI CEEE will conduct a course for K-12 teachers with a goal to give 44 teachers and 880 students hands-on involvement with environmental issues within their communities.